

Keiki o Hawai'i Nei

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
Hawai'i



Children's Program Weaves Fun, Science, and Culture Together

Youngsters from 9 to 12 years old are invited to join park rangers in Keiki o Hawai'i Nei, a summer Junior Ranger program of 4-days of exploring the natural and cultural heritage of Hawai'i. The program is designed to encourage a child's enthusiasm for discovery by connecting them with the park's resources and staff. "We look to promote the childrens' appreciation for that which is uniquely Hawaiian," said Chief of Interpretation and Education Joni Mae Makuakāne-Jarrell. Space is limited and programs will run from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on June 17 and 20 and 7:30 am to 4:00 pm on June 18 and 19, 2014.

The children will hike beneath towering tree ferns and over fields of ropy pāhoehoe. They'll feel the steam, smell the sulfur, and catch a glimpse of rare Hawai'i birds. They'll experience being on an active volcano and see the home of Pelehonuamea, goddess of the volcano.

Through mo'olelo, stories, and cultural activities, park rangers Noah Gomes and Koa Johnasen will share the traditional Hawaiian values and history. Children will learn to identify native plants and animals, understand the inter-relatedness of island lifeforms, and learn how Hawaiians used them in their daily life for food, shelter, and clothing. They will also pull up alien vegetation and become stewards of the land.

A visit to some of Hawai'i Island's west-side national park units on Wednesday and Thursday will feature weaving the science and cultural connections of these special places.

Participants must bring and be able to carry their own day pack with water, snacks, lunch, and raingear, and hike up to three miles at a leisurely pace.

To reserve a space for your child for the program, call the park's Education Center at (808) 985-6019. Speak slow and clear and leave your name, email, best contact telephone number, name of your child, age and gender. We will email you a registration form for you to complete and return to our office. Once we receive your registration form, we will email your child's confirmation to you. Reservation deadline is Friday, June 13, 2014.

E hele mai kākou!